



## U.S. Embassy Cairo

### Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

### Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program

#### ***Description:***

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) is pleased to announce the second year of an Arabic version of its flagship Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program. This project will provide young civic activists and democratic reform leaders from the Middle East and North Africa with the opportunity to complete both academic coursework at the American University of Beirut and professional experience in Lebanon. The fellowship will cover international travel, health insurance, housing, and a moderate living stipend over the course of the project.

The project is open to applicants between the ages of 22 and 30 with a Bachelor's degree and fluency in Arabic. Applicants also should have some experience working in civil society, rule of law, human rights, democracy promotion, etc. and the capacity to apply to opportunities presented by the fellowship in a way that would benefit an organization, sector, or specific community in their home countries. This project will run from early May to mid-July 2012 and Fellows are expected to travel to Lebanon unaccompanied. An alumni conference, to include Fellows of the English-language Syracuse LDF project, will be held in the region in the last quarter of 2012.

LDF Arabic begins with four weeks of academic coursework at the American University in Beirut that includes subjects on leadership, democracy, communication, and conflict resolution, among others. After completing the academic portion of the program, participants will engage in a five-to-six week professional assignment with a political, non-governmental, or public policy organization of interest in Lebanon. Through this component of the project, participants will gain practical experience about the ways that such institutions interact with government and civil society while also gaining valuable knowledge, experience, skills and further professional contacts to benefit their respective professional pursuits in their home countries.

#### ***Application Requirements:***

Completed applications must include:

- 1) An essay of no more than 1,000 words, written in Arabic, which answers the following questions:
  - ☐ How will MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellowship enable you to better lead your community towards greater democracy and citizen participation in the institutions and activities of government?
  - ☐ Specifically, what do you hope to gain from this program and what are your plans to apply the experience after you return from the program?
  - ☐ What changes do you hope to bring about in your country during the next 10 years?
- 2) An updated resume
- 3) A copy of Egyptian ID/passport

Applicants may also include up to two letters of recommendation, but these are optional. Please note that only applicants fulfilling the program's requirements will be considered for an interview.

Please submit your applications and supporting documentation by email to:

CairoMEPI@state.gov with the Subject line: 2012 Arabic MEPI- Leaders for Democracy

***Deadline for Applications: February 16, 2012 at 4:30 PM (Cairo)***